

# TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

January 28, 2024 9:30 AM  
The Rev. Richard G. Reed, Pastor



Healing Of A Demoniac in the Synagogue by James Tissot

—TOGETHER WE WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD —

## STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Tully United Community Church would like to acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, Fire-keepers of the Haudenosaunee, the indigenous peoples on whose ancestral lands our buildings now stand.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We welcome, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, all who have gathered to worship God together – those who are here in person, and those joining us on ZOOM. Are there any **BRIEF** announcements? Let us worship God.*

## PRELUDE

**“Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”**

## GREETING

*Celebrant: In Jesus Christ all things are made new. Once we have experienced this Epiphany, we can not go back to living the way things were, for we have become a new creation. So let us go forward, manifesting God's Light and Love to a world in darkness, hate, and fear.*

**CENTERING SONG\*****“Christ Beside Me”****(Tune: Morning Has Broken)**

- 1. Christ beside me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me King of my heart;  
Christ within me, Christ below me,  
Christ above me never to part.**
- 2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me shield in the strife;  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising light of my life.**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION****CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist: Come to worship this day. Bring with you all your joys and sorrows.

**People: Jesus will offer us hope.**

L: Come to worship this day believing in the power of God through Jesus Christ.

**P: Jesus will bring us healing.**

L: Come to worship this day feeling the presence of God.

**P: Jesus will teach us new ways to live.**

L: Let us pray.

**God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you,  
and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your spirit that we may celebrate  
your glory and truly worship you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

**\*\*HYMN****“When Morning Gilds The Skies”****#185**

- 1. When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries,  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer, to Jesus I repair;  
May Jesus Christ be praised.**
- 2. The night becomes as day, When from the heart we say,  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
The pow'rs of darkness fear, When this sweet song they hear,  
May Jesus Christ be praised.**
- 3. Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
In Heaven's eternal bliss the loveliest strain is this:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!**

4. **Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine,  
may Jesus Christ be praised:  
be this the eternal song through ages all along,  
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

### **PASSING THE PEACE**

Celebrant: *The peace of Christ be with you.*

**People: AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

Celebrant: *Let us share signs of welcome and peace with our neighbors.*

## **-WE REJOICE IN THE WORD OF GOD-**

### **FIRST LESSON**

**Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

**A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.**

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' Then the LORD replied to me, 'They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'

Here ends the reading.

### **PSALTER**

**Psalm 111**

**Resp. 1**

**#832**

**R** ♪ God commands an eternal covenant, and sends redemption,  
redemption to earth. ♪

Liturgist: Praise the LORD!

**People: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

L: Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who have pleasure in them.

**P: Full of honor and majesty are the works of the Lord,  
whose righteousness endures for ever,**

L: who has caused his wonderful works to be remembered;  
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

**P: The Lord provides food for the faithful;  
and is ever mindful of his covenant. R**

L: The Lord has shown his people the power of his works  
by giving them the heritage of the nations.

**P: The works of the Lord's hands are faithful and just;  
all the precepts of the Lord are trustworthy;  
they are established for ever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

L: The Lord sent redemption to his people;  
and has commanded his covenant for ever.  
Holy and wondrous is God's name.

**P: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.  
The praise of the Lord endures for ever. R**

## **SECOND LESSON**

## **First Corinthians 8:1-13**

**A reading from the Apostle Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth.**

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge, but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists" and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating

food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge the weak brother or sister for whom Christ died is destroyed. But when you thus sin against brothers and sisters and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never again eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

**Here ends the reading.**

**\*\*GLORIA PATRI**

**#70**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

**\*\*THE GOSPEL**

**+ Mark 1:21-28 +**

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

*Celebrant: This is the Word of God.* **All: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

**The Rev. Richard G. Reed**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

**"Lord Jesus, Think On Me"  
Laura Currie Chancel Choir**

**Jay Althouse**

**- WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER -**

**SHARING JOYS, AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "sins")**

**#894**

Bidding: Hear our prayers, O Lord;

**Response: and send redemption to your people.**

*Celebrant: Gracious and loving God, we come to you with hearts that need to be opened to your word and your love. Keep us ever mindful of your presence and the hope that you have given us in your Son Jesus Christ as we pray: Hear our prayers, O Lord; and send redemption to your people.*

**Liturgist:** Guide us, we pray, as your church, struggling to spread the good news. Keep us focused on the mission and ministry to which you have called us and lead us forward. We know, Lord, that there will often be bumps and holes in the road along the way. Save us from dwelling on them and make us secure in the goals you have placed before us.

Hear our prayers, O Lord; **and send redemption to your people.**

**L:** We pray for our president and vice-president, our members of congress, our governor and all who lead us, protect us, and serve us. May they seek your wisdom, truth and peace in all their deliberations and actions.

Hear our prayers, O Lord; **and send redemption to your people.**

**L:** We pray for all your creation that cries out for healing, peace and salvation. Help us to live gently with our earth, to treat all things as we would be treated, to make care of our environment and attention to global climate change a part of our witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Hear our prayers, O Lord; **and send redemption to your people.**

**L:** Hear our prayers for all who need your tender touch of healing in their lives—those we name before you each day, and those whom we bring to you in the **silence**. Be with those who mourn. May we all remember the love and grace that your faithful people have brought to our world.

Hear our prayers, O Lord; **and send redemption to your people.**

**L:** O Lord Jesus Christ, you prayed for your disciples that they might be one. Look in pity upon the many divisions among those who profess your name, and heal the many wounds which the passions and pride of mortals have inflicted upon your church. Shed abroad in the hearts of your people the spirit of love, which will break down the walls of separation. Help us to realize that, as there is in heaven only one holy company abiding in love, so on earth there may be only one holy fellowship of your people abiding in the unity of love and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Celebrant: These are our prayers, together with those that lie on the hearts of all your faithful people, which we offer to you in the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ who taught us to pray, saying:*

**“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.”**

**- WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD -**

**OFFERTORY INVITATION**

*Celebrant: Together, we who have heard the call to follow Jesus, are also offering ourselves to the world, and opening ourselves to God's blessing, every time we give of ourselves more deeply to others. Through our tithes and offerings we affirm God's reign in our lives as stewards of God's gifts. Come, let us bring our lives before God in the gifts we now offer.*

**DOXOLOGY, PRESENTATION, AND OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**#95**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Word, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Celebrant: Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you not with our words only, but with our whole lives. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**- WE ARE SENT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS -**

**HYMN**

**“Christ, Whose Glory Fills The Skies”**

**#173**

**1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**2. Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;  
joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see;  
till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.**

**3. Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, Radiance divine, scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.**

## **BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**

Celebrant: O Christ, our only Savior, so dwell within us that we may go forth with the light of hope in our eyes, with the fire of inspiration on our lips, with your Word on our tongues, and with your love in our hearts. And the blessings of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit go with you always.

**People: Amen! Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

**“Isn’t He”**

**J. Wimber**

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**\*\*Indicates to rise if you are able**

### **Thoughts to Ponder After Worship:**

- Who are the modern day prophets who speak the Word of God? How do we know if one is a true or a false prophet?
- What does it mean that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”?
- What are the idols that become stumbling blocks to our faith?
- Are there any areas of your life that you have trouble giving Jesus authority over?

### **\*Centering Song**

**There is an ancient practice known as Centering Prayer that has been used for centuries for Christian meditation. To practice this type of prayer, you are simply supposed to sit in a comfortable position, still and relaxed, while you focus on one sacred word (“Jesus,” “Love,” “Savior,” “Spirit,” etc.) until only that word is on your mind. The goal is that you be able to shut out all distractions and quiet your inner self~your thoughts and consciousness~so that you can experience God’s presence within you personally and powerfully. Centering Song is a musical form of Centering Prayer. The words that we sing help us focus our attention away from ourselves and toward God while the music is meant to quiet our spirits and bring us into an attitude of prayer.**